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EXAMINER	
THANGAVELU, KANDASAMY	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2123	

NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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# Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/762,428

Applicant(s)

MARTIN ET AL.

Examiner

Kandasamy Thangavelu

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 January 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-49 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-49 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 22 January 2004 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

## Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)            | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)                       |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)    | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____  |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application             |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>1/22/04; 4/26/06</u> .  | 6) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: <u>1449 of 8/2/06; 9/8/06</u> . |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

1. Claims 1-49 of the application have been examined.

### ***Information Disclosure Statement***

2. Acknowledgment is made of the information disclosure statements filed on January 22, 2004, April 26, 2006, August 2, 2006 and September 8, 2006 together with a list of the patents and papers. The patents and papers have been considered.

### ***Drawings***

3. Figures 6 and 10-43 with dark or grey background and characters that are not legible are unacceptable. The applicants are required to submit these figures with clear background legible characters.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101***

4. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

5. Claims 1-49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

5.1 Claim 1 deals with a method of providing a programming environment for a simulation of a computer application, ... comprising:

displaying on a computer display a programming area comprising ...one or more primitives ...;

displaying on the computer display a requirements area comprising one or more requirements; and

associating the one or more primitives with the one or more requirements ....

The method does not produce any useful, tangible and concrete results and therefore is not statutory and cannot be patented under 35 USC 101. To produce useful, tangible and concrete results the system should save the results produced by the software on a file or display the results on a display terminal, so a user can make design decision.

Claims 2-9 depend on claim 1 but do not produce any useful, tangible and concrete results and therefore are not statutory and cannot be patented under 35 USC 101.

5.2 Claim 10 deals with a method of providing a programming environment for a simulation of a computer application, the method comprising:

displaying on an electronic display a programming area comprising ... one or more primitives ...;

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displaying a requirements area comprising one or more statements, ..., and  
associating the one or more primitives with the one or more statements .....

The claim does not produce any useful, tangible and concrete results and therefore is not statutory and cannot be patented under 35 USC 101. To produce useful, tangible and concrete results the system should save the results generated by the method on a file or display the results on a display terminal, so a user can make design decision.

Claims 11-19 depend on claim 10 but do not produce any useful, tangible and concrete results and therefore are not statutory and cannot be patented under 35 USC 101.

5.3 Claim 20 deals with a computer system that provides a programming environment for a simulation of a computer application, ... comprising:

a component configured to display on an electronic display a programming area  
comprising ... one or more primitives ...;

a component configured to display a requirements area comprising one or more  
statements, ...; and

a component configured to associate the one or more primitives with the one or more  
statements .....

The claim does not produce any useful, tangible and concrete results and therefore is not statutory and cannot be patented under 35 USC 101. To produce useful, tangible and concrete

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results the system should save the results generated by the method on a file or display the results on a display terminal, so a user can make design decision.

Claims 21-29 depend on claim 20 but do not produce any useful, tangible and concrete results and therefore are not statutory and cannot be patented under 35 USC 101.

5.4 Claim 30 deals with a computer system that provides a programming environment for a simulation of a computer application, ... comprising:

a means for displaying on an electronic display a programming area comprising ... one or more primitives ...;

a means for displaying a requirements area comprising one or more statements, ...; and

a means for associating the one or more primitives with the one or more statements ....

The claim does not produce any useful, tangible and concrete results and therefore is not statutory and cannot be patented under 35 USC 101. To produce useful, tangible and concrete results the system should save the results generated by the method on a file or display the results on a display terminal, so a user can make design decision.

Claims 31-39 depend on claim 30 but do not produce any useful, tangible and concrete results and therefore are not statutory and cannot be patented under 35 USC 101.

5.5 Claim 40 deals with a computer program for providing a programming environment for a simulation of a computer application, the computer program comprising:

instructions for displaying on an electronic display a programming area comprising ...  
one or more primitives ...;

instructions for displaying a requirements area comprising one or more statements, ...;  
and

instructions for associating the one or more primitives with the one or more statements  
....

A computer program is not patentable under 35 USC 101. Only a computer readable storage medium storing computer readable instructions is patentable. In addition, the claim does not produce any useful, tangible and concrete results and therefore is not statutory and cannot be patented under 35 USC 101. To produce useful, tangible and concrete results the system should save the results generated by the method on a file or display the results on a display terminal, so a user can make design decision.

Claims 41-49 depend on claim 40 and are not patentable since they claim a computer program which is not patentable. In addition, they do not produce any useful, tangible and concrete results and therefore are not statutory and cannot be patented under 35 USC 101.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

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(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

(e) the invention was described in-

(1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effect under this subsection of a national application published under section 122(b) only if the international application designating the United States was published under Article 21(2)(a) of such treaty in the English language; or

(2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that a patent shall not be deemed filed in the United States for the purposes of this subsection based on the filing of an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a).

7. Claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 10, 11, 13, 14, 17, 20, 21, 23, 24, 27, 30, 31, 33, 34, 37, 40, 41, 43, 44 and 47 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (a) and 102(e) as being anticipated by **Mashita et al.** (U.S. Patent Application 2001/0002834).

7.1 **Mashita et al.** teaches method for inputting and acquiring requirement. Specifically, as per claim 1, **Mashita et al.** teaches a method of providing a programming environment for a simulation of a computer application (Abstract, L1-3 and L6-14; Fig. 2; Fig. 1, Item 112; Page 1, Para 0002; Page 1, Para 0003, L2-6; Page 1, Para 0008, L2-8), the method comprising:

displaying on a computer display a programming area comprising one or more graphical representations of one or more primitives for the simulation of the computer application (Abstract, L1-3; Fig. 2; Page 2, Para 0022, L6-14; Page 5, Para 0090, L1-2);

displaying on the computer display a requirements area comprising one or more requirements (Abstract, L6-8; Fig. 2; Page 1, Para 002, L1-5; Page 5, Para 0090, L2-8); and

associating the one or more primitives with the one or more requirements such that a primitive displayed in the programming area is visually associated with a displayed requirement of the requirements area (Abstract, L8-14; Fig. 14; Fig. 20; Page 2, Para 0023, L2-11; Page 2, Para 0025, L1-5 and L8-17; Page 4, Para 0084, L5-11; Page 5, Para 0090, L8-10).



Per claim 3: **Mashita et al.** teaches displaying an association between a requirement and a selected primitive (Abstract, L8-14; Fig. 14; Fig. 20; Page 2, Para 0023, L2-11; Page 2, Para 0025, L1-5 and L8-17; Page 4, Para 0084, L5-11; Page 5, Para 0090, L8-10), by removing one or more requirements from display that are not associated with the selected primitive (Abstract, L14-18; Page 1, Para 0004, L2-5).

Per claim 4: **Mashita et al.** teaches displaying the programming area, displaying the requirements area, and associating the one or more primitives with the one or more requirements using a computer program with a consistent user interface (Abstract, L1-3 and L8-14; Fig. 2; Fig. 14; Fig. 20; Abstract, L14-18; Page 1, Para 0004, L2-5).

Per claim 7: **Mashita et al.** teaches that the one or more requirements corresponds to one or more statements or to one or more portions of a statement regarding a desired behavior of the computer application (Fig. 22; Page 8, Para 0125).

7.2 As per claim 20, **Mashita et al.** teaches a computer system that provides a programming environment for a simulation of a computer application (Abstract, L1-3 and L6-14; Fig. 2; Fig. 1, Item 112; Page 1, Para 0002; Page 1, Para 0003, L2-6; Page 1, Para 0008, L2-8; Page 4, Para 0087, L1-9), the computer system comprising:

a component configured to display on an electronic display a programming area comprising one or more graphical representations of one or more primitives for the simulation of

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the computer application (Abstract, L1-3; Fig. 2; Page 2, Para 0022, L6-14; Page 5, Para 0090, L1-2);

a component configured to display a requirements area comprising one or more statements, where a statement describes a desired behavior for a primitive (Abstract, L6-8; Fig. 2; Page 1, Para 002, L1-5; Page 5, Para 0090, L2-8; Fig. 22; Page 8, Para 0125); and

a component configured to associate the one or more primitives with the one or more statements such that a primitive displayed in the programming area is associated with a displayed statement of the requirements area (Abstract, L8-14; Fig. 14; Fig. 20; Page 2, Para 0023, L2-11; Page 2, Para 0025, L1-5 and L8-17; Page 4, Para 0084, L5-11; Page 5, Para 0090, L8-10; Fig. 22; Page 8, Para 0125).

Per claim 21: **Mashita et al.** teaches that at least one of the one or more statements corresponds to a requirement (Fig. 22; Page 8, Para 0125).

Per claim 23: **Mashita et al.** teaches a component configured to display an association between a statement and a selected primitive (Abstract, L8-14; Fig. 14; Fig. 20; Page 2, Para 0023, L2-11; Page 2, Para 0025, L1-5 and L8-17; Page 4, Para 0084, L5-11; Page 5, Para 0090, L8-10), by removing one or more requirements from display that are not associated with the selected primitive (Abstract, L14-18; Page 1, Para 0004, L2-5).

Per claim 24: **Mashita et al.** teaches the computer system provides a consistent user interface to display the programming area, display the requirements area, and associate the one

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or more primitives with the one or more statements (Abstract, L1-3 and L8-14; Fig. 2; Fig. 14; Fig. 20; Abstract, L14-18; Page 1, Para 0004, L2-5).

Per claim 27: **Mashita et al.** teaches that the one or more statements corresponds to one or more statements or to one or more portions of a statement regarding a desired or necessary behavior of the computer application (Fig. 22; Page 8, Para 0125).

7.3 As per claims 10, 11, 13, 14, 17, 30, 31, 33, 34, 37, 40, 41, 43, 44 and 47, these are rejected based on the same reasoning as claims 20, 21, 23, 24 and 27, supra. Claims 10, 11, 13, 14, 17, 30, 31, 33, 34, 37, 40, 41, 43, 44 and 47 are method, computer system and computer program claims reciting the same limitations as claims 20, 21, 23, 24 and 27 supra, as taught throughout by **Mashita et al.**

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains.

9. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

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1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

10. Claims 2, 5-6, 9, 12, 15-16, 19, 22, 25-26, 29, 32, 35-36, 39, 42, 45-46 and 49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Mashita et al.** (U.S. Patent Application 2001/0002834) in view of **Coburn et al.** (U.S. Patent Application 2002/0120921).

10.1 As per claim 2, **Mashita et al.** teaches the method of claim 1. **Mashita et al.** teaches displaying an association between a primitive and a selected requirement (Abstract, L8-14; Fig. 14; Fig. 20; Page 2, Para 0023, L2-11; Page 2, Para 0025, L1-5 and L8-17; Page 4, Para 0084, L5-11; Page 5, Para 0090, L8-10).

**Mashita et al.** does not expressly teach highlighting one or more primitives associated with the selected requirement. **Coburn et al.** teaches highlighting one or more primitives associated with the selected requirement (Page 24, Para 0366, L1-4 and L9-11). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to modify the method of **Mashita et al.** with the method of **Coburn et al.** that included highlighting one or more primitives associated with the selected requirement, because that would allow generating simulation data structures which could be used by the modeling system to interface the components (primitives), the constructs encapsulating the simulation information (Abstract, 11-6).

10.2 As per claim 5, **Mashita et al.** teaches the method of claim 1. **Mashita et al.** teaches receiving an indication of a selection of a requirement in the computer display by the pointing device (Page 1, Para 0004, L2-5; Page 1, Para 0006, L8-11; Page 2, Para 0022, L1-3);

receiving an indication of a selection of a primitive in the computer display (Abstract, L14-18; Abstract, L1-3; Fig. 2; Page 2, Para 0022, L6-14; Page 5, Para 0090, L1-2);

receiving an indication to create an association between the selected requirement and the selected primitive (Abstract, L14-18; Abstract, L8-14; Page 1, Para 0004, L2-5; Page 2, Para 0024, L4-6); and

associating the selected requirement and the selected primitive (Abstract, L8-14; Fig. 14; Fig. 20; Page 2, Para 0023, L2-11; Page 2, Para 0025, L1-5 and L8-17; Page 4, Para 0084, L5-11; Page 5, Para 0090, L8-10).

**Mashita et al.** does not expressly teach monitoring a position of a cursor in the computer display, where the position of the cursor is manipulated by a pointing device. **Coburn et al.** teaches monitoring a position of a cursor in the computer display, where the position of the cursor is manipulated by a pointing device (Page 24, Para 0366, L1-4).

10.3 As per claim 6, **Mashita et al.** teaches the method of claim 1. **Mashita et al.** teaches receiving an indication of a selection of a requirement in the computer display by the pointing device (Page 1, Para 0004, L2-5; Page 1, Para 0006, L8-11; Page 2, Para 0022, L1-3);

receiving an indication of a selection of a primitive in the computer display (Abstract, L14-18; Abstract, L1-3; Fig. 2; Page 2, Para 0022, L6-14; Page 5, Para 0090, L1-2);

receiving an indication to remove an association between the selected requirement and the selected primitive (Page 3, Para 0028, L9-12); and

removing the association between the selected requirement and the selected primitive (Page 3, Para 0028, L9-12).

**Mashita et al.** does not expressly teach monitoring a position of a cursor in the computer display, where the position of the cursor is manipulated by a pointing device. **Coburn et al.** teaches monitoring a position of a cursor in the computer display, where the position of the cursor is manipulated by a pointing device (Page 24, Para 0366, L1-4).

10.4 As per claim 9, **Mashita et al.** teaches the method of claim 1. **Mashita et al.** does not expressly teach that at least one of the primitives simulates storage and retrieval available in the computer application. **Coburn et al.** teaches that at least one of the primitives simulates storage and retrieval available in the computer application (Page 43, Para 0586, L7-11; Page 44, Para 0590, L1-3).

10.5 As per claim 22, **Mashita et al.** teaches the computer system of Claim 20. **Mashita et al.** teaches a component configured to display an association between a primitive and a selected statement (Abstract, L8-14; Fig. 14; Fig. 20; Page 2, Para 0023, L2-11; Page 2, Para 0025, L1-5 and L8-17; Page 4, Para 0084, L5-11; Page 5, Para 0090, L8-10; Fig. 22; Page 8, Para 0125).

**Mashita et al.** does not expressly teach highlighting one or more primitives associated with the selected statement. **Coburn et al.** teaches highlighting one or more primitives associated with the selected statement (Page 24, Para 0366, L1-4 and L9-11).

10.6 As per claim 25, **Mashita et al.** teaches the computer system of claim 20. **Mashita et al.** teaches a component configured to receive an indication of a selection of a statement in the computer display by the pointing device (Page 1, Para 0004, L2-5; Page 1, Para 0006, L8-11; Page 2, Para 0022, L1-3; Fig. 22; Page 8, Para 0125);

to receive an indication of a selection of a primitive in the computer display (Abstract, L14-18; Abstract, L1-3; Fig. 2; Page 2, Para 0022, L6-14; Page 5, Para 0090, L1-2);

to receive an indication to create an association between the selected statement and the selected primitive (Abstract, L14-18; Abstract, L8-14; Page 1, Para 0004, L2-5; Page 2, Para 0024, L4-6; Fig. 22; Page 8, Para 0125); and

to associate the selected statement and the selected primitive (Abstract, L8-14; Fig. 14; Fig. 20; Page 2, Para 0023, L2-11; Page 2, Para 0025, L1-5 and L8-17; Page 4, Para 0084, L5-11; Page 5, Para 0090, L8-10; Fig. 22; Page 8, Para 0125).

**Mashita et al.** does not expressly teach a component configured to monitor a position of a cursor in the computer display, where the position of the cursor is manipulated by a pointing device. **Coburn et al.** teaches a component configured to monitor a position of a cursor in the

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computer display, where the position of the cursor is manipulated by a pointing device (Page 24, Para 0366, L1-4).

10.7 As per claim 26, **Mashita et al.** teaches the computer system of claim 20. **Mashita et al.** teaches a component configured to receive an indication of a selection of a statement in the computer display by the pointing device (Page 1, Para 0004, L2-5; Page 1, Para 0006, L8-11; Page 2, Para 0022, L1-3; Fig. 22; Page 8, Para 0125);

to receive an indication of a selection of a primitive in the computer display (Abstract, L14-18; Abstract, L1-3; Fig. 2; Page 2, Para 0022, L6-14; Page 5, Para 0090, L1-2);

to receive an indication to remove an association between the selected statement and the selected primitive (Page 3, Para 0028, L9-12; Fig. 22; Page 8, Para 0125); and

to remove the association between the selected statement and the selected primitive (Page 3, Para 0028, L9-12; Fig. 22; Page 8, Para 0125).

**Mashita et al.** does not expressly teach a component configured to monitor a position of a cursor in the computer display, where the position of the cursor is manipulated by a pointing device. **Coburn et al.** teaches a component configured to monitor a position of a cursor in the computer display, where the position of the cursor is manipulated by a pointing device (Page 24, Para 0366, L1-4).

10.8 As per claim 29, **Mashita et al.** teaches the computer system of claim 20. **Mashita et al.** does not expressly teach that at least one of the primitives simulates storage and retrieval



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available in the computer application. **Coburn et al.** teaches that at least one of the primitives simulates storage and retrieval available in the computer application (Page 43, Para 0586, L7-11; Page 44, Para 0590, L1-3).

10.9 As per claims 12, 15-16, 19, 32, 35-36, 39, 42, 45-46 and 49, these are rejected based on the same reasoning as claims 22, 25-26 and 29, supra. Claims 12, 15-16, 19, 32, 35-36, 39, 42, 45-46 and 49 are method, computer system and computer program claims reciting the same limitations as claims 22, 25-26 and 29 supra, as taught throughout by **Mashita et al.** and **Coburn et al.**

11. Claims 8, 18, 28, 38 and 48 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Mashita et al.** (U.S. Patent Application 2001/0002834) in view of **Critz et al.** (U.S. Patent 7,139,686).

11.1 As per claim 8, **Mashita et al.** teaches the method of claim 1. **Mashita et al.** does not expressly teach that at least one of the primitives simulates computation available in the computer application. **Critz et al.** teaches that at least one of the primitives simulates computation available in the computer application (CL3, L42-44). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to modify the method of **Mashita et al.** with the method of **Critz et al.** that included at least one of the primitives simulating computation available in the computer application., because that would allow the

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simulator to advance the simulation time and store state information of the model during the simulation (CL3, L44-47).

11.2 As per claim 28, **Mashita et al.** teaches the computer system of claim 20. **Mashita et al.** does not expressly teach that at least one of the primitives simulates computation available in the computer application. **Critz et al.** teaches that at least one of the primitives simulates computation available in the computer application (CL3, L42-44).

11.3 As per claims 18, 38 and 48, these are rejected based on the same reasoning as claim 28, supra. Claims 18, 38 and 48 are method, computer system and computer program claims reciting the same limitations as claim 28 supra, as taught throughout by **Mashita et al.** and **Critz et al.**

### ***Conclusion***

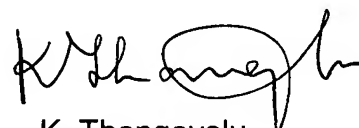
12. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dr. Kandasamy Thangavelu whose telephone number is 571-272-3717. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 5:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paul Rodriguez, can be reached on 571-272-3753. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to TC 2100 Group receptionist: 571-272-2100.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



K. Thangavelu  
Art Unit 2123  
May 11, 2007